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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 is hereby amended.

Amendment of claim 1 is supported by page 13, lines 6-12, page 13, lines 20-22, Figure 4(b-c), and Figure 7.

The disclosure was objected to for various informalities. The Specification is amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the Specification is requested.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as being anticipated by Kin (JP 05-107257). However, Kin does not disclose a hydroplaning detection apparatus including wheel speed sensors for detecting vibrations from a road surface through tires, as required by claim 1. Rather, Kin discloses "wheel rotational-speed detection means" for determining rotational speed.

Further, Kin does not disclose a processing unit including a digital filter for extracting a change pattern of detection values for front and rear wheel sides by **excluding** inherent tire influences due to lack of tire uniformity (exhibited by a relatively long waveform) while **maintaining** speed variations due to road bump (exhibited by a relatively short waveform). In fact, Kin does not disclose detection of hydroplaning by factoring in road surface roughness. Rather, Kin discloses detection based on rotational speed. Kin discloses detection of hydroplaning based on a predetermined velocity pattern (see paragraph 3), and does not disclose or suggest accounting for road surface conditions, as is required by claim 1.

In contrast, claim 1 requires determining hydroplaning based on a variation of the road surface in order to avoid a false determination due to a road bump, as hydroplaning does not generally occur on a rough road (see page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 2).

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Since Kin does not disclose all the elements required by the hydroplaning detection apparatus of claim 1, the reference cannot be considered to anticipate the current invention. Favorable reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-4 are requested.

In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612)455-3802.



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Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curtis B. Hamre".

Curtis B. Hamre
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CBH/lad